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Datum (vzniku): 18.2.2000 | datum aktualizace: 18.2.2000

3.5. Living Environment

A good master plans his work. Only the one who does not care for his property, is not interested in what he will sow tomorrow and reap the next day. Into the much needed and still absent state concepts - the transport, energy and raw-material ones - we will incorporate the ecological aspect. Without this aspect the transport concept, for example, is reduced to a mere justification of the gradual liquidation of public and railway freight transport. In summary these ecologically oriented concepts will allow a gradual realization of the vision of a modern free society, the goal of the European Union - the sustainable development of an individual, a municipality, a whole society.

It is first of all our anticipated membership of the European Union that requires in the area of the living environment that the economic policy must have as an integral part the protection of the environment. We will achieve economic growth thanks to the ecologically oriented economic concepts eliminating unacceptable impact on the living environment which would mean in fact a transfer of today's economic growth costs to the future, to burden future generations.

Therefore ÈSSD will insist on a strict application of the legal provisions concerning the protection of the environment accepted mainly in 1990-1992, which have been exercised rather reluctantly in the past few years by the state authorities and on amendments of losses having occurred as a consequence of the loss of the key competence of Ministry of the environment in the regional planning and the loss of part of the competences in the management of water supplies and forestry.

We will try to renew the role of the communication of Ministry of the environment with the regions and mayors of municipalities. Underestimation of the value of communication has lead in the recent years to the situation where the extension of conservation areas or their establishment have been looked on as limiting the development possibilities of the municipalities and regions.

We will take action in overcoming the stagnation in the establishment of conservation areas. The environment including the conservation areas has been exposed to strong pressure, without respecting rules for using land which have been common in the EU countries for years - according to the ratio of mines of mineral resources and timber exports we rank close to the developing countries.

As opposed to the existing style we will enforce, through targeted subventions, compensation for declared economic hardship caused by justified limitation of economic activity not compatible with the conservation areas. On the other hand the support of suitable business activities such as the development of tourism which is not harmful to nature or ecological agriculture or the wood-processing industry will bring the needed economic activity and job opportunities.

We will allow our industry to use state-guaranteed loans and loans with lower interest rates when implementing environment-friendly technologies based on clear criteria announced in advance. This particular support will cause a much desired multiplication effect, leading not only to the decrease in the pollution of the environment and raw-material and energy demands but it will allow us to keep employment in a range of today's problematic and still ineffective industries as well. To increase the competitiveness of our industrial products we will support the introduction and certification of the environment protection policies in the industrial companies.

Taking care of the natural resources - forests, water, rock environment - we prefer their non-productive functions - the ecological ones. Therefore we will try to enforce the transfer of non-economic competencies in the field of forestry and the management of water supplies back to Ministry of the environment.

With regard to the laws relating to fines for pollution of the environment (especially of waters and air) we will become stricter with regard to the size of fines and at the same time we will reconcile these laws with the requirements of the European Union. We will achieve the compatibility of the regulations for exploration and the extraction of mineral resources with the Charter of basic rights and freedoms through an amendment to these regulations allowing the land owners and municipalities to protect themselves against an unacceptable damage.

The protecting the environment is also based on the level of ecological awareness of our citizens and on the development of non-profit organizations in the private sector. Therefore we will support ecological awareness and culture with the help of the programs of state orders placed with the eco-educational centres working effectively as

private, non-profit organizations for years.

It is necessary to have a qualified and objective monitoring of compliance with the regulations regarding the protection of the environment, not an overgrown and costly bureaucratic machinery. The execution of state administration in the protection of the environment requires experts. For them we will create good working conditions thus lowering the risk of corruption, among others by accepting the law on the state service. We will enforce the strengthening of the powers of the Czech Inspectors for the environment. The monitoring of compliance with the ecological laws will be so effective that to break these laws will be highly risky due to heavy sanctions.

Zpět

(c) ÈSSD